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Two New Associate Judges Sworn In



Judge Michael E. Coppedge

Judge Jeffrey L. Hirsch

On November 10, 2015 the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County welcomed two newly appointed Associate Judges; Michael E. Coppedge and Jeffrey L. Hirsch. The swearing in ceremony was held in courtroom 204 and was standing room only.

Judge Coppedge graduated cum laude from the College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois in 1984 and attended law school at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois where he also graduated cum laude.

Since being admitted to the Illinois Bar in, Judge Coppedge has had extensive background in civil litigation, personal injury and workers compensation, collections, commercial and residential real estate and local government. Judge Coppedge has been assigned to the Family Division.

Judge Hirsch graduated from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana and then attended The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois.

Since being admitted to the Bar in 1994, Judge Hirsch has had an extensive family law practice, including litigation, mediation, collaborative law, arbitration, and child advocacy. Judge Hirsch has been assigned to the Criminal Division.

For more information see Judges Coppedge and Hirsch's respective introductions on page 3 and page 4.

Meet Associate Judge Michael E. Coppedge



When I was asked to write this piece taking an opportunity to introduce myself to the courthouse community, my initial thought was a curious, why? I began working in the McHenry County legal community as a law clerk in December of 1986. I was admitted to the bar in November of 1987 and, until my recent appointment to the bench, worked at the same law firm in Crystal Lake. It seemed odd to me that any introduction was necessary. I have, after all, been around our legal community a long time. On reflection however, it occurred to me that longevity does not necessarily mean familiarity. Seeing someone on a regular basis in the courthouse, does not automatically translate to knowing the person. I then found myself asking the hard question, how do I introduce myself? It is easy to give biographical information. I

was born in Joliet, Illinois in September of 1962. My Dad was a steelworker and my Mom was a homemaker. I have two sisters, one older and one younger. I graduated from the College of St. Francis in Joliet in 1984. I was married in May of 1984, two weeks after I graduated from college. The first time I left Joliet was when my wife and I moved to DeKalb so that I could attend law school at Northern Illinois University. At the time, my wife was finishing her undergraduate education degree, which she obtained in December of 1985. She has been teaching Kindergarten for almost thirty years and certainly must be in line for sainthood (for both dealing with five year olds for all that time and for dealing with me). We moved to McHenry County in 1996

My son, Matthew, was born in August of 1987. While often said, the birth of a child profoundly

changes one's life. My wife must have done something right because our son is, in my eyes a monumental success. He is currently an audio engineer for NBC Sports and won an Emmy for his work at the Sochi Olympics in 2014. He is by far way cooler than his father.

If I was forced to define myself in three words, those words would be: compassionate, light-hearted and driven. As I said when I was sworn in as Associate Judge, I am honored and humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve the 22nd Judicial Circuit. I am thankful for the opportunity and start every day with a recognition of how blessed and fortunate I am.

Finally, to set the record straight, as my esteemed Court Security Officer is quick to note, yes, I am a Packers fan but I am otherwise true to Chicago sports teams, especially the Blackhawks.

Meet Associate Judge Jeffrey L. Hirsch

Jeffrey L. Hirsch was appointed as an Associate Judge of the 22nd Judicial Circuit effective October 30, 2015. Before his appointment, Judge Hirsch was in private practice with The Gitlin Law Firm, P.C. in Woodstock, Illinois, where he had an extensive family law practice including litigation, mediation, collaborative law, arbitration, and child representation. Judge Hirsch is a past president of the McHenry County Bar Association and served on the Circuit Court's Family Mediation Advisory Council for many years.

He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and has received the highest possible, AV Preeminent Rating® by Mar-

tindale-Hubbell and also been peer-selected as a Leading Lawyer in the field of family law and alternative dispute resolution. Judge Hirsch was a frequent CLE presenter, both locally and statewide, on matters of family law and mediation. His article entitled, "*Solving for X & Y: Exploring the Illinois Maintenance Guidelines*," was recently published in the ISBA's Illinois Bar Journal (September 2015, Vol. 103, No. 9).

Judge Hirsch is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, McHenry County Bar Association, Mediation Council of Illinois, Academy of Professional Family Mediators, and Collaborative Law Institute of Illinois. He is



a graduate of The John Marshall Law School and Indiana University.

Away from the bench, he is a youth hockey coach for the Crystal Lake Yellow Jackets and is a USAH Level 4 on-ice official, having been selected for State and National Championships. Judge Hirsch and his wife, Lori, live in Woodstock with their three children.

Judge Cowlin, Judge Gerhardt and Judge Costello Receive Peace and Justice Award



Circuit Judge James Cowlin

On October 22, 2015, at the annual awards banquet for Turning Point, three judges from the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County were honored by receiving the "Peace and Justice Award." Circuit Judge James S. Cowlin, Associate Judge Mark R. Gerhardt and

Associate Judge Kevin G. Costello received the "Peace and Justice" award for their exemplary service to victims of domestic violence.

"In the Family Division, the judges have very hard decisions to make which effect the family dynamic. These judges are very sensitive to all of the issues and are fair to all sides. They ensure that victims are not victimized again by the system," explained Mary Denney, Supervisor of Legal Advocates for Turning Point.

"On behalf of Judge Costello, Judge Gerhardt and myself, I thank you for the Peace and Jus-

tice Award. It is truly an honor, however the award belongs to the staff at Turning Point. It is their dedication which allows us to do our job, pursuant to our oath of office," said Circuit Judge James S. Cowlin. "Thank you to the Turning Point staff for your dedication and commitment to the victims of domestic violence, this award truly belongs to you," he continued.

The Peace and Justice Award is given to individuals who are recognized by Turning Point who support their work in the community.

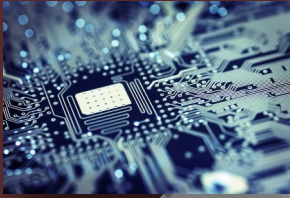
22nd Circuit Expands the use of CourtCall for Remote Appearances.

On September 1, 2015, the 22nd Judicial Circuit expanded the use of CourtCall® into all of the civil division courtrooms. This was after the successful completion of a pilot project involving Circuit Judge Michael J. Chmiel and Associate Judge Thomas A. Meyer, who pioneered the use of CourtCall® in McHenry County.

CourtCall® enables attorneys to seamlessly simulate an in-person court appearance using both telephonic and streaming video technology in the courtroom. There is with no discernible disruption in the business of the Court, all at no cost to the Court. Attorneys pay a reasonable fixed fee, per hearing, to file with CourtCall® the While stream-lining procedures

for the Court, CourtCall® Appearances also enable lawyers to avoid travel, traffic and weather conditions creating substantial litigation cost savings for clients.





Court Prepares to launch aiSmartBench

After a year of working with members of Mentis Technologies, the court is ready to move forward with aiSmartBench. The Court, with the assistance of the Circuit Clerk of the Court and the McHenry County Information Technology Department have made tremendous strides over the past several months to bring this project to fruition.

This new computer system is integrated with the Clerk of the Courts case management system, iJustice, and OnBase, the County's document imaging software. aiSmartBench will allow judges to see information on cases in the manner that is most advantageous to them and will assist greatly with the E-Record initiative.

Users are able to see case summary information, parties, financial information, attorneys and events on one

screen. Additionally from this one screen users can access images of documents. Users can see all of the documents, or they can be broken down by document type, such as, orders, motions, notices, affidavits, etc. Users can even flag certain documents and then only look at those documents. Users are able to search the document using optical character recognition, search the case, or the entire database. Annotations can also be put on the document image which can be shared with other users or can be kept private. These annotations are in the form of highlighting, using push pins and even typed "sticky notes".

There are many templates within the system which aids in the development of electronic orders. After opening a case a judge can select the type of order necessary and with a

click of the mouse create a completed order, ready for signature. aiSmartBench does have the functionality to capture signatures, so when the time is appropriate, judges would be able to sign the documents electronically.

This technology is designed to help the Court eliminate the need for paper files. By eliminating the paper files efficiency goes up and costs go down. As part of a week long process, "Super Users" of the Court were trained in overall use, system configuration, system administration and template building. Members of the Court are currently evaluating the data as part of "User Acceptance Testing". It is anticipated that judges will be trained on the use of the software the first week of December and will begin using the software shortly thereafter.



Probation and Court Services, Juvenile Division, Begins Pilot of Multisystemic Therapy—James Edwards

The Juvenile Division of Probation is expanding its continuum of interventions for addressing delinquency issues with at-risk youth by beginning a pilot program in December of 2015 with the implementation of *Multisystemic Therapy* (MST). MST is an intensive in-home therapy designed specifically for juvenile offenders presenting with various behavioral problems such as truancy and academic problems, serious disrespect and disobedience, aggression, criminal behavior, or drug and alcohol problems.

MST, contracted through One Hope United, has therapists that work with at-risk youth and families by providing intensive in-home individual and family therapy multiple times per week and employs empirically supported therapies including cognitive behavioral and proven family therapy tech-

niques. One of the advantages of MST is that it coincides superbly with the current training initiative in the Probation Department, *Effective Practices in Community Supervision* (EPICS-II), delivered by our juvenile and adult probation officers, that combines research-proven one-on-one cognitive-behavioral intervention strategies with motivational interviewing techniques for probationers. Youth participating in both EPICS-II and MST receive the treatment *dosage* recommended for medium to high-risk youth as defined by actuarial risk assessments and recommended in evidence-based or "what works" research. MST is a recognized *evidence-based* program and is identified on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Admin-



istration. In addition, in a cost-benefit analysis conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, MST was found to have a probability that its benefits would exceed costs by an impressive 88%. MST will be used for sentencing recommendations for youth as they begin their terms of probation or for youth transitioning from residential placement settings.

Jury Commission Continues to Seek Current Magazines

Every Monday, 160 jurors are summoned for jury duty. The Jury Commission tries to supply magazines for the jurors while they are waiting. The court does not subscribe to any magazines, newspapers, or periodicals, but tries to secure them through other means. Many of the magazines are outdated.

If you have a stack of magazines that you would like to donate to the Jury Commission, it would be very much appreciated. When you're done reading your favorite monthly magazine, please think about dropping it off at the Jury Commission.



I WANT YOUR



New Probation Officer Sworn In— Kathryn Bohmann

Kathryn Bohmann is a Juvenile Intake Probation Officer for the Department of Probation and Court Services and began working with the Department in March of 2015. She had an official *Oath of Office* ceremony conducted by Chief Judge Michael Sullivan on April 30, 2015.

Kathryn graduated from Carroll University with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology in May 2014. Before becoming a juvenile

probation officer, Kathryn worked as a caregiver for the elderly at an assisted living community for approximately two years and during her college experience, Kathryn worked extensively with junior high at-risk youth students.

While not at work, Kathryn's free time is primarily occupied by horses, as she owns three of her own and teaches horse-back riding lessons in the area. Kathryn has been involved in

the Special Olympic equestrian team, "Team Dream," and donates her time and horses to the cause.

Congratulations

Court Services' New Office Manger—Susan Peyton

Susan Payton began her employment with the 22nd Judicial Circuit's Department of Probation and Court Services in May 2015. Susan is currently attending Judson University and will graduate in May 2016 with a BA in Leadership & Management. She also completed a 2 year program in Business Management at Judson College in 2006 and has an associates degrees from Elgin Community College in Computer & Information Sciences. Prior to her employment with the 22nd Judicial Circuit, Susan worked in the private sector for 20 years in management, office administra-

tion and sales operations. Her most recent position was Manager of Sales Planning & Office Administration for The Scott's Miracle-Gro Company. Susan recently moved back to the area after living in Ohio for the past seven years. Previously she had lived most of her adult life in Kane County communities after being raised in Northern California. She and her husband have been married for 31 years and have two adult children. She currently volunteers for the Knights of Columbus Women's auxiliary.



Vidal Garcia Join Probation Team

In July of 2015, Vidal Garcia became a supervising officer in the juvenile division. Vidal graduated from Western Illinois University with two Bachelors of Art Degrees, one in Law Enforcement and Juvenile Administration and the other in Spanish. While in college, Vidal studied abroad

in Spain and traveled to other nearby countries. Prior to his employment at the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, Vidal interned during his spring semester at the Department of Probation and Court Services, where he was able to learn the dynamics of the justice system. At a young age, Vidal

has been interested in the field of Law Enforcement. Vidal worked as a Security Officer at Six Flags Great America for a couple of months before moving over to Probation. Vidal looks forward to gaining experiences and knowledge as his career continues.

22nd Circuit Approved for Electronic Filing of Criminal Cases

McHenry County Circuit Court Clerk, Katherine Keefe and 22nd Circuit Chief Judge, Michael J. Sullivan are pleased to announce they have received approval from the Illinois Supreme Court to move forward with the implementation of electronic filing for criminal case types in the 22nd Circuit Court. The McHenry County Circuit Clerk will begin accepting electronic filings in criminal case types effective September 8, 2015. Electronic filing, or E-Filing, is an automated online process where users of the court system can file documents electronically over the internet, rather than on pa-

per. In addition, filing fees are paid online, thus allowing the party to complete their filing without ever coming to the McHenry County Government Center. The E-Filing system is available to attorneys and self-represented litigants. McHenry County has been accepting electronic filing for civil case types since September of 2013 and was the second county in Illinois approved by the Supreme Court for Criminal E-Filing. Currently, only five Illinois counties have been approved by the Supreme Court for E-Filing in criminal cases.

The filer receives notification that the docu-

ments have been received and accepted or rejected. Once accepted, a file stamped document is returned electronically. Illinois Supreme Court Rules allow for an electronically submitted document to be filed up until midnight while still receiving a file stamp with the current date. Documents can be submitted electronically 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, eliminating "racing the clock" to the courthouse. In addition, E-Filing is cheaper and faster than mail and delivery services.

E-Filing also streamlines the process in the Clerk's office for accepting filings, entering the data associated with those filings and the storage of those court documents.



Probation Officer Crystal Cooper awarded Distinguished Service Award

Each year at the Annual Fall Illinois Probation and Court Services Association Conference an Awards Banquet is held where the association acknowledges and recognizes the dedication and contributions of individuals in the field of Probation and Court Services. On October 22, 2015, Crystal Cooper, Pretrial Officer with McHenry County Court Services received the Distinguished Service Award.

Crystal began her employment with McHenry County in 2013 after relocating to Illinois from the State of Michigan. Crystal came to McHenry County with prior probation/case management experience in the State of Michigan.

A Pretrial Officer is responsible for documenting an arrestee's personal infor-

mation and criminal history in a bond report format, in a very short window of time to assist the Judge in setting an arrestee's bond. Crystal's ability to learn the State of Illinois Statutes, understand criminal offense classification and interpret an individual's criminal record occurred within a very brief timeframe.

At the time of her hiring, Crystal's team partner had over 25 years experience in the field and was one of the first Pretrial officers in McHenry County, therefore, the Pretrial procedures were very effective, but were in need of a technology update. Upon the veteran officer's retirement, Crystal took the reigns as the lead officer in Pretrial assisting in the training of her new partner.

Through Crystal's knowledge of technology, a

number of daily procedures and forms were improved and digitized, making the process far more efficient. A new set of eyes on the program has resulted in real growth of the program. Crystal and her team partner developed a "short form" bond report to assist the Judge in determining the need for a risk assessment in those statutorily mandated domestic violence cases. Crystal has become one of the main officers trained in the installation and monitoring of the Probation Department's GPS Program. A Pretrial Officer works very non-traditional hours, arriving very early in the morning to interview arrestees in addition to working Saturdays and some holidays. Crystal is extremely dependable and a real asset to McHenry County.



**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD**

From the Desk of the Court Administrator, —Dan Wallis

A Different Perspective....



Every once in a while something comes along that makes us pause and wonder about something that we really hadn't thought of before or perhaps and even more significantly, it provides us insight and opportunity to see things from a different perspective. Perspective is defined as "a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view." Well I had the opportunity over the past 7 weeks to see things from a different point of view.

Some of you know that I don't have the best left knee in the world. Over the past 20 years it has been subjected to who knows how many injections of cortisone, synvisc, orthovisc, 5 arthroscopic surgeries and one cartilage transplant 10 years ago. After seeing numerous doctors I settled on Dr. David Flanigan at The Ohio State University. After the testing and MRI we determined the my best bet for relieving the pain was another cartilage transplant. Not words I wanted to hear. The scientific name of the surgery is an autologous chondrocyte implantation and the surgery is meant to prolong the usefulness of the joint. Basically the surgery is straight forward, cartilage which had been previously harvested from another part of

the knee, is grown in a petri dish and then implanted into the area where there is no cartilage. This was the easy part... The second part of the surgery was an osteotomy, which is a fancy way of saying "The doctor broke my leg." That was the hard part.

Dr. Flanigan cut a section of bone from my lower leg then manipulated it forward and then used a plate and screws to hold it in place. That was to change the arc of the knee cap so it would no longer hit the area with the newly transplanted cartilage. He told me that this would be "the worst pain" I ever experienced. He was right. The night after



surgery I could literally taste the pain, and I happen to be allergic to opioid painkillers. Unfortunately we found that out after I was given them.

The entire leg was in an immobilized brace and I was not able to put weight on it. This led to my change in perspective, I wound up using a wheel chair, something I had never imagined that I would ever need. After all, I like to think of myself as a rugged outdoors, hiking, fishing, hunting, motorcycle riding, airplane flying kind of guy.

But I want to share what it was like to be in that chair for 5 weeks. I would swear that people would avoid looking at me, almost like if they acknowledged me they might be able to catch what I had. Some people were

just rude, like it was a bother for me to be in the same line at Wendy's as them. I could not begin to count the number of times someone walked into me, nearly fell over me, and of course one woman hit me in the head with a purse because she wasn't paying attention. She didn't even apologize. Parking lots and parking garages were especially dangerous. People didn't care about a guy in a wheel chair, sometimes I thought I was a target for them to try and hit. Everything that I took for granted became a production, taking a shower, using the restroom, even getting dressed were obstacles that had to be overcome.

It wasn't all bad. There were plenty of good people who offered to help. A woman at the grocery store helped me unload my cart; another offered to back out of a parking spot to make it easier for me to get in the car; a woman offered to help push me through the hospital; another offered to help me with my luggage

It was a very humbling experience needing so much help. Those of you who helped me so graciously; thank you. I now see things a little differently; my perspective has certainly changed.



Oh, and never leave your wheelchair unattended in Court Service. Decorations courtesy of a couple of Probation Officers in the Juvenile Division—Thank you Katie Wendt and Morgan Peterson. Sometimes we just need to laugh.



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**The mission of the 22nd
Judicial Circuit of
McHenry County is to be
the guardian of life, lib-
erty and property to all
seeking access to justice,
by adhering to practices
that ensure equality,
fairness and confidence
in the judiciary.**

